



National Society for Histotechnology
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Volunteer Appreciation – Robert Lott, HQIP Grader



Q: Tell us about yourself and where you work.

A: I graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor's degree in biology, completed my clinical training at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB Hospitals & Clinics) and held various positions there for more than 20 years including Manager of Anatomic Pathology. I served as the Manager of Anatomic Pathology at the Baptist Health Systems in Birmingham for more than 12 years. All in all, I have more than 35 years of clinical laboratory experience in Anatomic Pathology.

In 2013, I accepted an offer to work as the External Quality Assessment Manager at Roche Tissue Diagnostics/Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. in Tucson, AZ. I work with a great team there in the Market Access Group and am still part of that group today.

I was actively involved in the Alabama Society for Histotechnology and in 2002 received the President's Award for Excellence, Professionalism and Knowledge.

I served two terms as the NSH appointee to the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) Board of Directors. I also served on the Histotechnology Examination Committee of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) from 1993 to 1998, chaired that committee from 1996 through 1998 and was instrumental in the concept, development and implementation of the Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC) exam.

I have a special interest in histology education and certification and in that regard have presented numerous workshops at the local, state and national levels. I am a currently adjunct faculty member for the NAACLS accredited Histotechnology Training Program at Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD and have served as an "on-line mentor" for students enrolled in that program for the last 15 years.

I have been a long-time member of the Education Committee at NSH and worked extensively on the update and revision of the on-line Self-Assessment Series. I served as an NSH appointee to the CAP/NSH Histotechnology Committee, which administers the 13 different quality improvement programs known as HistoQIP, at the College of American Pathologists, from 2005 thru 2011 and was re-appointed to that committee in 2014.

Also, I was named the 2010 NSH Histotechnologist of the Year.

Q: What have been your challenges and highlights over the past few years?

A: The biggest challenge has been transitioning from working and administering in the laboratory setting to that of industry/manufacturer. Certainly, two different worlds!

Q: How has volunteering helped you build upon your successes and/or addressed your challenges?



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A: As I said, I have always had a special interest in education and certification... I held the position of Program Director in a NAACLS accredited school of histotechnology from 1988-1992. This position 'really' forced me to learn the discipline. If you are going to teach students about histotechnology you better know what you're talking about in advance.

As for my current position at Roche, my extensive background in H&E staining, special stains, immunohistochemistry, and molecular methodology, all learned in the laboratory, has benefitted me greatly.

Q: What advice do you have for others who would like to volunteer?

Learn the discipline, understand the theory, teach others willingly, and give of your time and talent to your profession.

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